

REMARKS

Claims 1-49, 55, 57, 58, 60, 64-68, 73, 77-88, 90, and 92 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 61, 89, and 91 are canceled and claims 60 and 92 are amended. Claim 91 is simply placed into independent form as amended claim 60 and claim 92 is amended for clarity to correct an antecedent mistake relating to "the steering shaft." The latter change was expressly indicated to be acceptable in the Advisory Action of March 14, 2003.

This Amendment is being filed before the submission of the Appellants' Appeal Brief. Prompt entry of this Amendment is requested as the amendments herein serve only to reduce issues for appeal, and no new issues are presented requiring further consideration by the Examiner. Therefore, it is believed that entry is proper.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made"**.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance/appeal, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

By: Paul T. Bowen Reg. No. 38,009
Paul T. Bowen
Registration No.: 38,009
Tel. No.: (703) 905-2020
Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

PTB:CDD/jck
Enclosure:
Appendix

Post Office Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000

APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 61, 89, and 91 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 60 and 92 as follows:

60. (Five Times Amended) A snowmobile, comprising:

a frame having a forward-most drive track axle disposed thereon;

a straddle seat disposed on the frame;

an engine disposed on the frame in front of the seat;

two skis disposed on the frame; and

a steering device disposed on the frame and operatively connected to the two skis for steering the snowmobile;

wherein the snowmobile has a center of gravity without a rider and the steering device is disposed on the frame forward of the center of gravity, and wherein the forward-most axle is positioned forward of the center of gravity and rearward of a rearward-most portion of the steering device such that the center of gravity is rearward of the rearward-most portion of the steering device, and

wherein the frame includes a tunnel, and the forward-most drive track axle is positioned in the tunnel.

92. (Twice Amended) An assembly comprising:

a frame including a tunnel;

a straddle seat mounted on the frame;

an engine disposed on the frame in front of the seat;

two skis disposed on the frame;

a steering shaft operatively connected to the two skis, the steering shaft being disposed over the engine at an angle ε of between 25° and 40° from vertical;

wherein the tunnel supports a drive belt coupled to the engine and defines a footrest on each side of the seat that is inclined at an angle Δ with horizontal that is between 0° to -10° ; and

wherein a forward-most axle of the drive belt is positioned rearward of the steering [device] shaft.

END OF APPENDIX